#6

TENER • JOVICIC • MAGNAYE • BIRCH

MATURE BAD BUG

VANYA

THE LOST WARRIOR

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BAD BUG

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"WHAT DO YOU FIGHT FOR, VANYA?"

I WAS ASKED THAT BEFORE I JOINED THE GUARD.

STORY BY MIKE TENER
ART BY ZORAN JOVICIC

I SAID 'FOR MY PEOPLE' BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO SAY AT THE TIME.

THE TRUTH IS, I FIGHT BECAUSE IT'S WHAT I WAS BRED FOR.

THAT'S MY PURPOSE.

I DO, HOWEVER, FIGHT FOR PLEASURE.

THE TOUCH OF PASSION IS A SENSATION THAT CAN'T BE COMPARED.

BUT THE THRILL OF COMBAT IS UNMATCHED.

I'VE LOST FRIENDS... FAMILY... LOVERS... TO WAR.

YET I SHED NO TEARS... NO TIME FOR MOURNING.

I AM A WARRIOR LOST TO THE CALL OF BATTLE.

WHY I THINK OF WAR DURING A TIME LIKE THIS, I'LL NEVER REALLY UNDERSTAND.

SERAH'S LUST FOR ME IS AS STRONG AS IT'S EVER BEEN.

BUT, STILL, I CAN'T FULLY GIVE ATTENTION TO HER.

WE CLING TO EACH OTHER AS TIGHT AS EVER.

TRYING SO HARD TO PLEASE THE OTHER.

FINALLY, I RELAX AND GIVE IN TO HER.

THEN WE DREAM TOGETHER.

THIS MAY BE THE LAST TIME WE GET TO.

SERAH...

SHE'S AWAKE!

SERAH?

I-I SAW IT.

SAW WHAT, MY LOVE?

THE DRAGON.

IT-IT SAID MY NAME.

THIS THING IS FUCKING WITH MY HEAD.

I TRIED TAKING MINE OFF. HURTS LIKE A BITCH.

DON'T EVEN TRY IT. YOU'LL GO INTO SHOCK.
I'VE SEEN MANY DIE FROM TRYING.
A FATE WE ALL MAY SHARE IF WE DON'T START MOVING.
I STILL DON'T TRUST YOU, NIYA.
BUT I DO, VANYA. HER AND I SHARED A VISION IN THE SEER'S POOL.
I'M GOING WITH HER TO SEE IT THROUGH.
YOU'RE ALIGNING WITH A DESERTER.
SO BE IT.

WE CAN'T STAY TOGETHER. IT'S TOO RISKY.

FOLLOW THE RIVER NORTH FOR THIRTY KILOMETERS. YOU'LL FIND ***OUTPOST NINE***. IT'S *HEAVILY* FORTIFIED.

ONCE WE'VE SECURED THE EGGS, I CAN TRACK YOU GUYS DOWN BY FOLLOWING SERAH'S BIOSIGNATURE WITH THIS.

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T TAKE YOURS OFF. WE'LL LOSE YOU IF YOU DO.

I UNDERSTAND.

WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE.

FOR NOW.

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE BACK ON OUR OWN, MY LOVE.

I WOULDN'T FACE THE CHALLENGES OF THIS WORLD WITH ANYONE ELSE.

GENERALS, IT'S WITH GREAT DISPLEASURE THAT I RELEASE YOU.

THE *TORRIDIAN EMPIRE* HAS ACCEPTED A *TRUCE* WITH THE TERRAN ALLIED NATIONS.

YOU ARE FREE TO GO.

BASE

JUST LIKE THAT? *BULLSHIT!*

I AGREE, GENERAL.

WE RETURN YOUR WEAPONS TO YOU.

BUT YOU MUST RETURN TO YOUR PEOPLE ON YOUR OWN. THAT WAS THE AGREEMENT.

THIS PASSAGE IS CLEAR OF PREDATORS. BUT IT WON'T STAY THAT WAY. *GO NOW.*

I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

STAY FOCUSED.

IT'S NOTHING BUT TALL GRASS OUT HERE. WHAT'S THERE TO FOCUS ON?

RAPTORS!

HOW MANY?

TWO ON OUR LEFT!

WHAT THE FUCK IS THAT?!

SCREECH!

SPREAD OUT!

I'VE GOT A SHOT!

I'M GOING TO ENJOY THIS.

SNAP

SCREEECH!

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

SHING

SHING

AAAGGGH!

SLASH SLASH SLASH

GENERAL?!

BZZ

BZZ

BZZ

SCREEECH!

ZZZZZZZ

TAKE A SHOT IF YOU HAVE IT!

WHIP

SKREE!

WHIP

ACK!

SHUNK

CRUNCH

GET DOWN!

WAIT- THERE'S ONE OVER-

AAAAAGHH!!

WHOOOOSH

ON YOUR FIRST SHOT, VANYA? YOU'RE GETTING GOOD.

EIGHT MONTHS IN A PREHISTORIC JUNGLE HAS TAUGHT ME TO VALUE A QUIET, RANGED WEAPON.

LOTS OF EXOTIC WILDLIFE HERE-SURELY, YOU'VE TRIED TO BROADEN YOUR TASTES.

THEY ALL TASTE LIKE CHICKEN. QUITE DISAPPOINTING.

I'M TOLD REX RIBS ARE-

RRRRIIING

HNNNHHH!

THAT WAS MORE INTENSE THAN THE LAST TIME...

SAY THE WORD IF YOU WANT ME TO TAKE THAT THING OFF.

NO... NO. WE CAN'T. IT'S... IT'S SAYING SOMETHING.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND-

ARM YOURSELF.

SCREECH!

SPLASH

THAT... IS THAT A GR51 BLASTER ON ITS TAIL?

WIBWIBIWB

BOOM

WATCH OUT!

BOOM

SHIT!

COME ON... GOTTA BEAT THE RECHARGE SPEED OF THE BLASTER.

FIVE...

FOUR...

THREE!

SCREEECH!

WE'RE NOT DONE YET!

SCREEEECH!

ARGH!

WHO DID THIS TO YOU?

OH, SHIT!

I THINK THE FORCE OF ITS DIVE WILL DRAG MY DAGGER ALONG ITS SPINE, TEARING FLESH AS IT PULLS ME DEEPER.

BUT THAT'S NOT HAPPENING.

I TRY TO RELEASE THE DAGGER, BUT IT'S NOT BUDGING.

I HAVE TO LET GO.

I'M FREE, BUT THIS CREATURE ISN'T FINISHED WITH ME.

IT WAS TRYING TO DROWN ME BEFORE. NOW, IT'S GOING FOR THE **KILLING BLOW.**

I'M LOSING AIR. I KNOW I CAN'T OUTPACE IT, BUT I'VE NO CHOICE.

IT'S FASTER THAN I COULD HAVE IMAGINED.

THE DAMN THING CUT ME OFF.

NOW, I'M OUT OF IDEAS.

SCREEEECH!

GROARR!

SCREECH!

CRUNCH

SCREECH!

RIP

RRIP

GROOOARR!

I'VE NEVER BELIEVED IN GODS, BUT I CAME CLOSER TODAY.

NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THIS FORTUNATE INTERVENTION BY THE SPINOSAURUS.

BUT IN ADMIRATION OF THIS WORLD...HOW COULD WE HAVE SURVIVED HERE AS A SPECIES?

WE COULDN'T HAVE. THE TIME TRIALS HAVE PROVEN THAT TO ME, AT LEAST.

IMPRESSED?

HORRIFIED.

LET'S MOVE. ARMOR AND WEAPONS ONLY. WE'LL FIND ANOTHER MEAL.

WERE WE EXPERIMENTING WITH WILDLIFE AUGMENTATIONS HERE?

NO. THAT'S WHAT I'M CONCERNED ABOUT.

THAT WAS A MILITARY-GRADE BLASTER USED FOR NAUTICAL WARFARE.

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.

THIS LOOKS DIFFERENT... LIKE IT WAS MODIFIED.

SHOULD WE TAKE IT WITH US? SHOW THE GENERAL OF THE OUTPOST?

NO... WE NEED LESS WEIGHT AND MORE MOBILITY TO GET PAST THE MARSHLANDS UP AHEAD.

WE'RE NOT THE FIRST TO ENCOUNTER THIS SORT OF THING. I GUARANTEE IT.

MY BRIEF TIME IN THIS WORLD HAS SHOWN ME HOW SMALL THE WAR WITH THE TORRIDIANS IS IN THE UNIVERSE'S GRAND SCHEME.

AS URGENT AS OUR TASK MAY BE AND THE THREAT OF THE TORRIDIANS LOOMING, I STILL FEEL AN EASE.

I CAN SEE IN SERAH'S EYES THAT SHE FEELS THE SAME.

OUR LIVES IN 2288 WERE MUNDANE... SAFE...UP UNTIL THE INVASION, ANYWAY.

OUR LIVES HERE ARE FRAGILE, ALWAYS HANGING IN THE BALANCE, BRINGING US CLOSER.

I DON'T FEAR THIS WORLD. I FEAR LOSING IT TO OUR ENEMIES.

I'M READY TO FIGHT FOR IT. IT'S TIME FOR WAR.

GENERAL TORA, THE ASTRAL GUARD HAS LEFT 2288.

THEY'RE COMING HERE.

PERFECT.

THE CHANCELLOR WANTS YOUR REPORT.

I COMMAND YOU TO PLEASE ME.

I OBEY.

MMM.

GENERAL, THIS IS HARDLY THE TIME FOR-

WE DON'T NEED MORE INTERFERENCE FROM BUREAUCRATS.

TELL THE CHANCELLOR WE HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL.

STOP NOW.

PLEASE YOUR SISTER SLAVE UNTIL I RETURN. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

I OBEY.

THIS BATTLE IS MY LEGACY. I WON'T FAIL OUR EMPEROR.

HAVE EVERYONE READY BY NIGHTFALL, LIEUTENANT.

SO... THE VISION WE SHARED... HOW SURE ARE WE THAT THESE DRAGONS WILL BE ON OUR SIDE?

THE PHEROMONES WE RELEASED IN THE RITUAL IMPRINT OUR SPECIES ON THEM.

WHEN THEY FINALLY HATCH, THEY'LL INSTINCTIVELY BE LOYAL TO US.

SHOULD WE FUCK A FEW TIMES ON OUR WAY BACK TO VANYA AND SERAH? LEAVE A NICE PHEROMONE TRAIL?

I'M NOT AMUSED.

...THAT WAS A SERIOUS SUGGESTION.

SO... HOW BIG ARE THEY?

MASSIVE.

WAS PLANTING THAT EXPLOSIVE NECESSARY?

IF THE EGGS ARE FOUND BY THE TORRIDIANS, WE'VE GOT TO DESTROY THEM.

SHIT, IT'S A QUAKE. RUN!

RUMBLE

SKZZZ

SKZZZ

I-I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

THIS CAN'T BE GOOD...

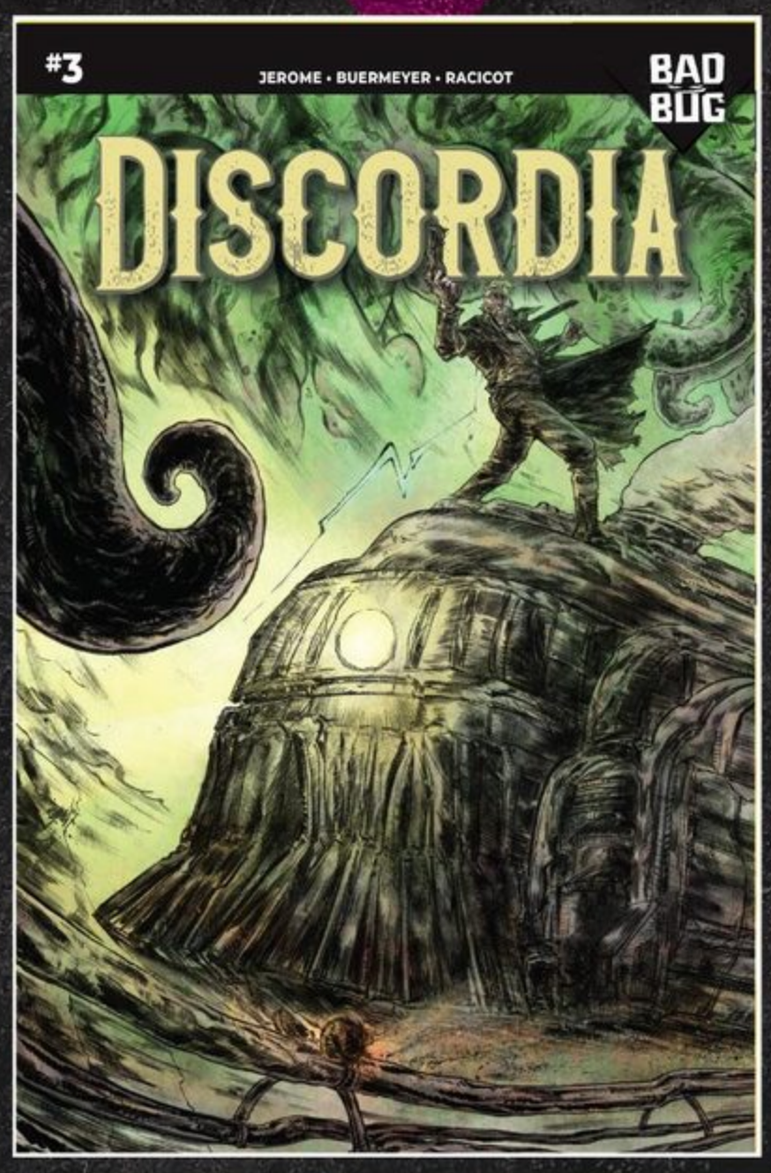
LOWER YOUR WEAPONS AND SURRENDER TO *THE ASTRAL GUARD.*

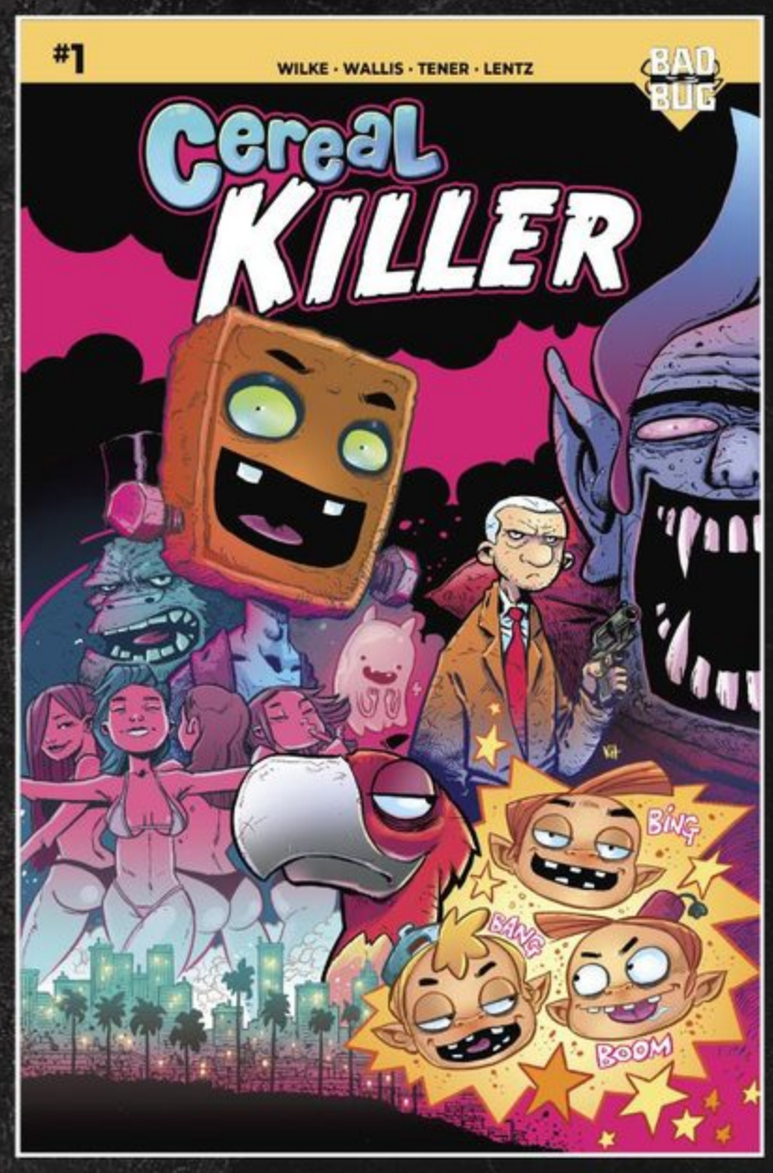
TO BE CONTINUED...

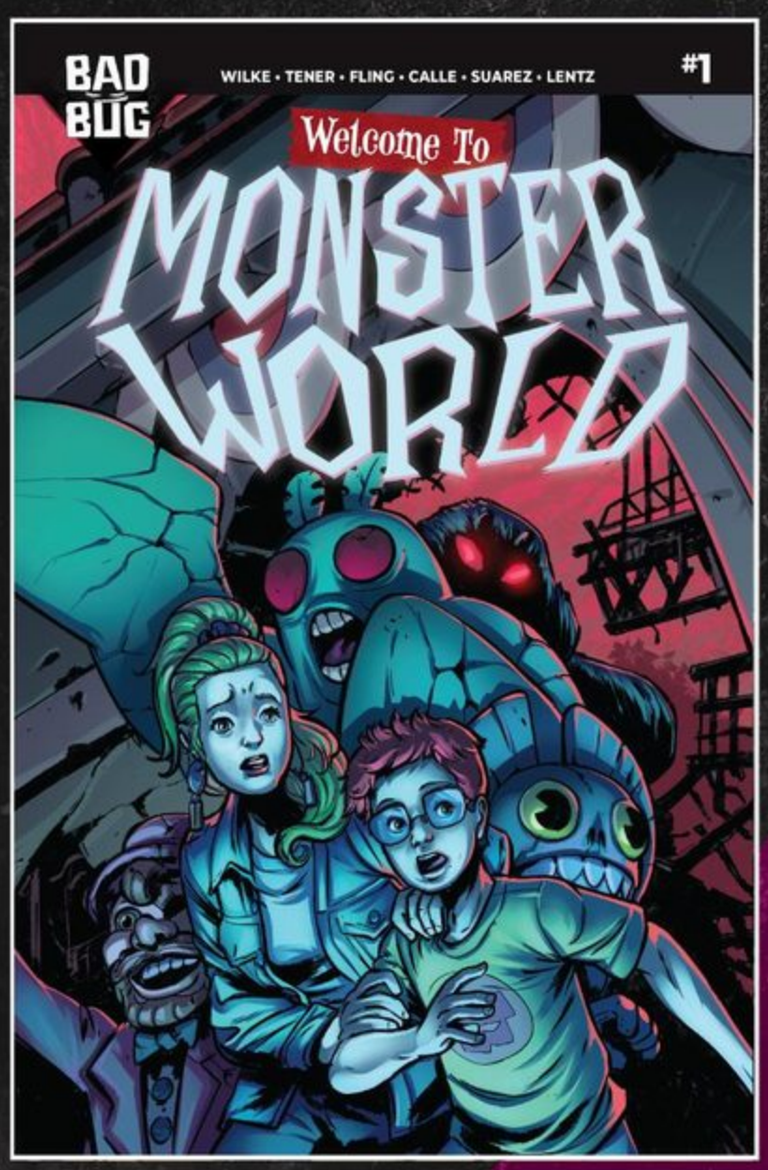
BAD BUG

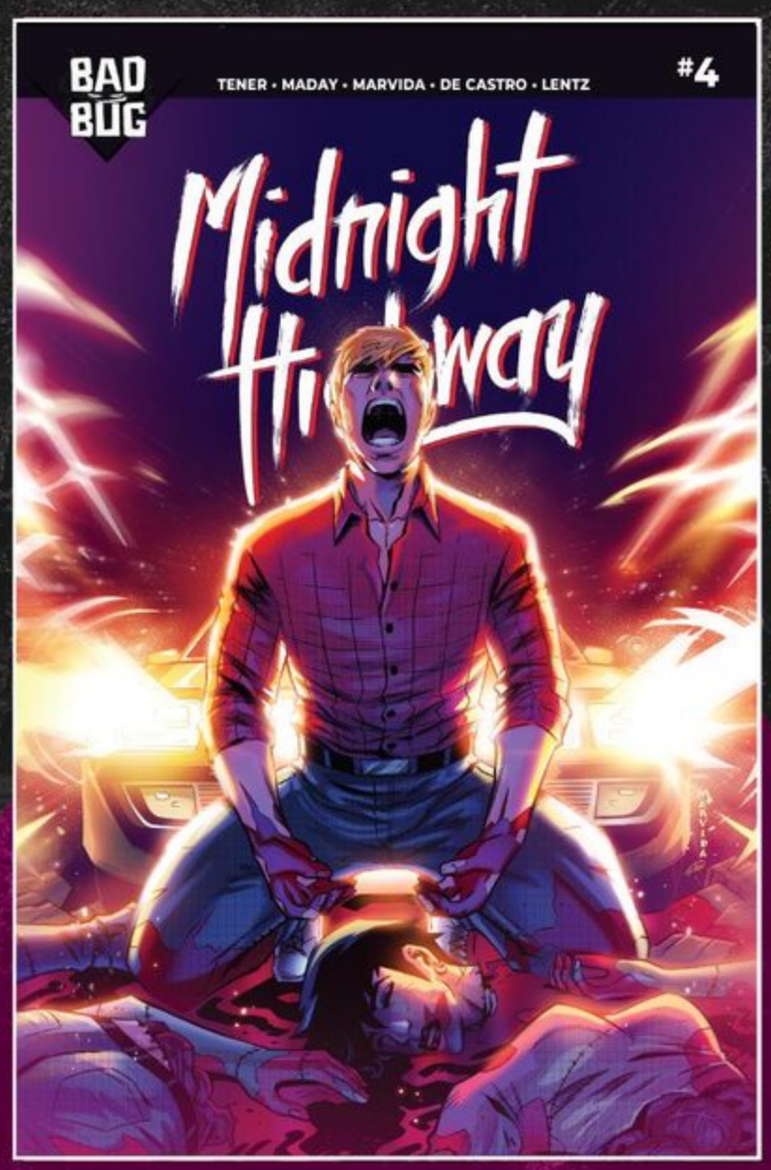
FOR A GOOD TIME, GO TO

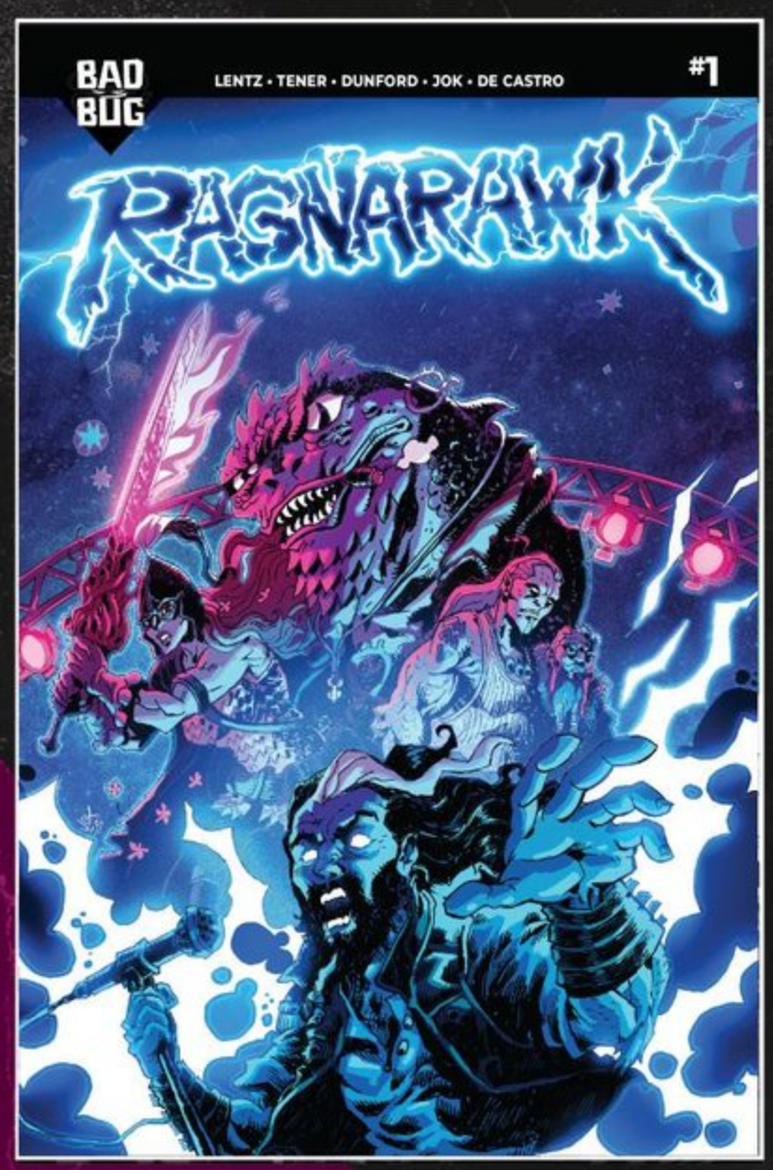
WWW.BADBUGMEDIA.COM











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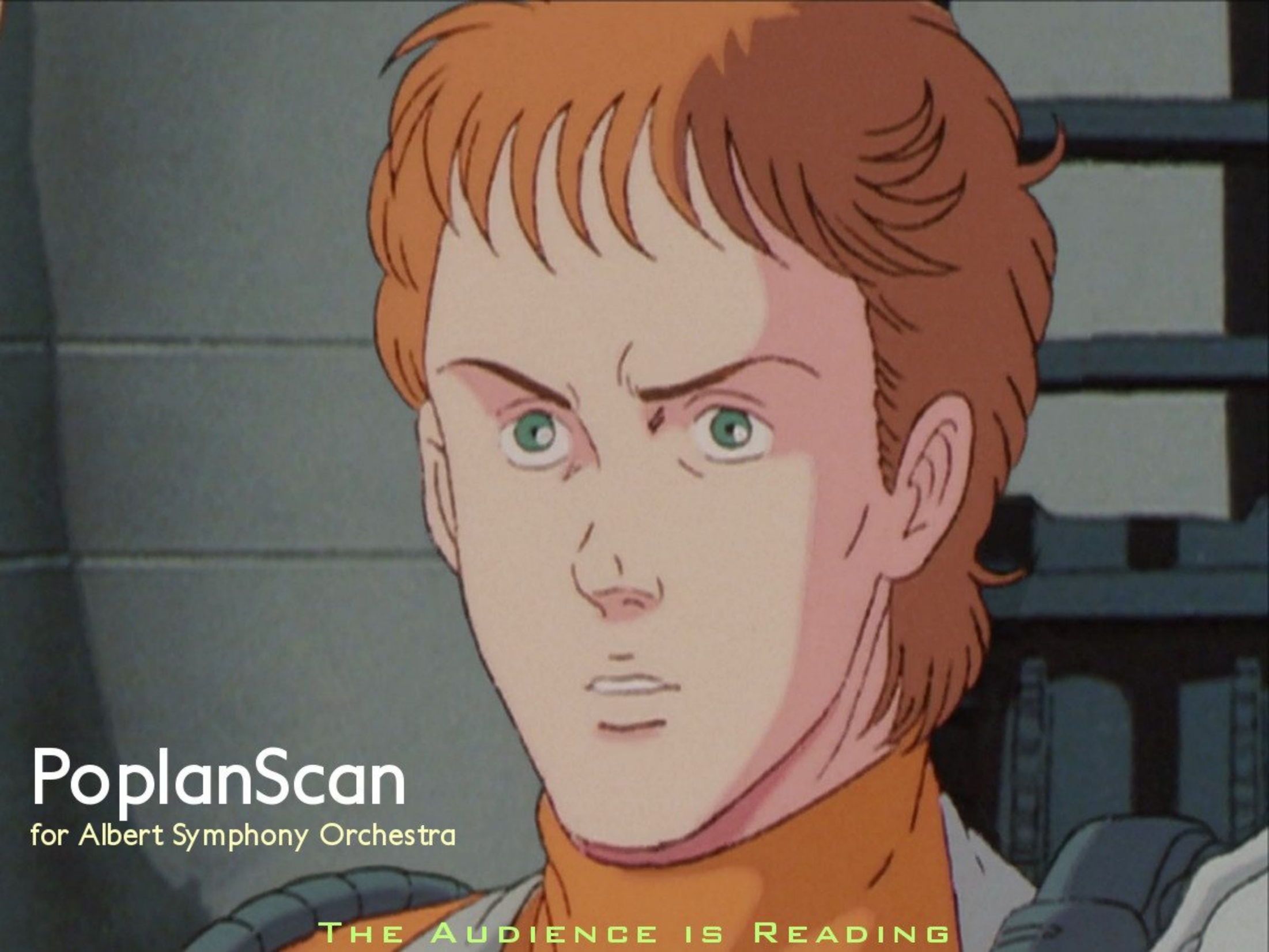
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